



Senate Bill 664

Urban Water Seismic Safety

SUMMARY

California's water supply crisscrosses dozens of faults, leaving pipes and aqueducts vulnerable to the powerful shaking of earthquakes. It is incredibly important that water agencies, the public and the state of California understand the impact an earthquake might have on water supply. Senate Bill 664 requires every Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) to include a seismic risk assessment and mitigation plan that evaluates the vulnerability of the water system.

ISSUE

According to the Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast, there is a 99% chance of another magnitude 6.7 or larger earthquake during the next 30 years. Californians unfortunately are familiar with consequences of earthquakes. The Northridge earthquake (magnitude 6.7) left 57 dead, more than 9,000 injured, and caused more than \$40 billion in property damage. The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake (magnitude 6.9) killed 63 people, injured more than 3,700, and caused more than \$6 billion in property damage. The mostly deadly California earthquake, the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire (estimated magnitude 7.8), left 3,000 people dead and caused more than \$13 billion (inflation-adjusted) in property damage. Each of these quakes resulted in substantial water system damage and challenges for delivering water for firefighting and drinking. For example, in Northridge, residents lined up to receive bottled water after local officials warned not to drink tap water following the rupture of several water mains in the San Fernando Valley.

With California entering the fourth year of the current and serious drought, scientists predict our changing climate will increase the frequency, length, and severity of droughts in California. The State must prioritize water security. Urban Water Management Plans are developed by hundreds of water agencies across the state every five years. Identifying seismic vulnerability and outlining measures to mitigate that risk will only strengthen California's water infrastructure, making communities across the state better prepared in the event of an earthquake.

Although California has addressed seismic safety many times, including mandatory retrofits for schools and hospitals, voluntary upgrades, mapping hazardous faults, and cataloguing unsafe buildings, much of California's infrastructure – including key water delivery systems – remains seismically unsafe and extremely vulnerable.

SB 664 (HERTZBERG)

This bill will require all Urban Water Management plans to include an evaluation of the seismic vulnerability of the water infrastructure within the jurisdiction of the plan by 2020.

*****Support on reverse.**



SUPPORT:

East Bay Municipal Utility District

California State Council of Laborers

Sierra Club California

Los Angeles County Democratic Party (Priority Bill for 2015)